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Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 NSF-04 AID-20 SAM-01 EB-11 IGA-02

XMB-07 DOTE-00 NASA-04 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /164 W
---------- 068281
R 270820Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6520
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1290

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NASA, TSPA, MA, US
SUBJECT: NASA STATION AND AID RAILROAD LOAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. TANANARIVE'S 1241 (NOTAL) AND B. 1272

1. IMMEDIATELY ON RETURN MADAGASCAR I GOT IN TOUCH WITH MINISTER TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO WHO STARTED RIGHT OUT BY SAYING SIGNATURE FIXED FOR AUGUST 30. I INQUIRED WHETHER HE MEANT SIGNATURE OF BOTH NASA STATION AND RAILROAD LOAN AGREEMENTS (SINCE CALL BY DIRECTOR RAILWAYS REPORTED REF B HAD RELATED ONLY TO LATTER). ANDRIAMAHAZO ASKED WHETHER DCM HAD SEEN HIS SECRETARY GENERAL ON NASA AGREEMENT. I REPLIED DCM HAD BEEN READY DO SO EVER SINCE ANDRIAMAHAZO HAD INDICATED AUGUST 6 THAT GOMR WAS READY PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT TWO MEETINGS WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED HAD BOTH BEEN POSTPONED BY SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. SINCE ANDRIAMAHAZO INDICATED UNAWARENESS OF THIS FACT AND APPEARED GENUINELY SURPRISED, I THEN ASKED WHETHER
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NASA AGREEMENT AS WE HAD PROPOSED IT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO

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GOMR. ANDRIAMAHAZO REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, WITHOUT ANY HESITATION. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHO PREPARES TEXTS FOR SIGNATURES. I POINTED OUT WE PREPARE OUR NOTE AND GOMR PREPARES ITS NOTE IN REPLY, AND WE EXCHANGE THEM.

3. AS SECRETARY GENERAL ABSENT IN PROVINCES UNTIL END OF WEEK AND ANDRIAMAHAZO HIMSELF LEAVING FOR PROVINCES TOMORROW AND WILL NOT RETURN TO TANANARIVE FOR SOME TIME (PERHAPS TWO WEEKS OR MORE), HE SAID HE WOULD LEAVE "LETTER" FOR SECRETARY GENERAL ASKING VM COMMUNICATE PROMPTLY WITH DCM, AND FIX NEW DATE FOR SIGNATURE OF BOTH NASA AND RAILROAD LOAN ACCORDS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD PROCEED IN HIS ABSENCE IN VIEW FACT HE WILL BE GONE FOR SOME TIME.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW EVIDENT ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATION ON GOMR SIDE, EVEN BETWEEN ANDRIAMAHAZO AND HIS SECRETARY GENERAL, AND FACT MY CONVERSATION WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO HAD TO BE CONDUCTED HASTILY OVER TELEPHONE AS HE IS TIED UP ALL DAY WITH TAMATAVE DOCKERS AND DID NOT HAVE TIME RECEIVE ME AT HIS OFFICE, WE STILL HAVE OUR FINGERS CROSSED AS TO WHEN SIGNING WILL TAKE PLACE, AND EVEN WHETHER GOMR IS ON BOARD IN ALL RESPECTS ON TEXT OF NASA AGREEMENT. WHILE ANDRIAMAHAZO SAID RAILROAD LOAN WILL BE SIGNED ON GOMR SIDE BY MINISTER ECONOMY AND FINANCE (AS IS NORMAL), I AM NOT SURE ON REFLECTION THAT HE IS AWARE EXCHANGE NOTES ON NASA STATION IS EFFECTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE SHALL BRING THIS OUT WHEN DCM AND SECRETARY GENERAL MEET. CONCEIVABLY THAT FACTOR COULD LEAD TO FURTHER DELAY IF GOMR SIDE PREFERS HAVE NOTES EXCHANGED WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA ABSENT FROM MADAGASCAR IN VIEW OF STANCE HE EARLIER TOOK ON NASA STATION RENT. (RATSIRAKA STILL OUT OF COUNTRY AT PRESENT TIME, BUT WE PRESUME HE MIGHT RETURN BEFORE GOING TO UNGA.)
MENDENHALL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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